



## PAPER OUTLINE 2009

**Paper Code and Title:** MUSC131 *Introduction to Opera*

**Year:** 2009  
**CRN:** 17338

**Points value:** 20

**Trimester:** 2/3

**Campus:** NZSM - VUW Kelburn

**Key dates:** Teaching dates: 13 July–16 October 2009

Study week: 19–23 October 2009

Exam period: 27 October–13 November 2009

*NB: For courses with exams, students must be available to attend the exam at any time during this period.*

**Prerequisites:** None

**Corequisites:** None

**Restrictions:** None

**Paper Co-ordinator:** Inge van Rij  
**Contact phone:** 463-5852 **Email:** Inge.vanrij@nzsm.ac.nz  
**Office located at:** Room 001, 92 Fairlie Terrace  
**Office hours:** Mondays 2-3pm

**Other staff member(s):** Elizabeth Hudson  
**Contact phone:** 463-5342 **Email:** Elizabeth.hudson@nzsm.ac.nz  
**Office(s) located at:** Room 103, 92 Fairlie Terrace

**Tutors:** Sarah Chesney **Email:** chesnesara@myvuw.ac.nz  
**Office hours:** 10-11am Thursday, Room 003, 94 Fairlie Terrace  
**Class times:** Tue, Fri 9-10.30 **Venue:** Maclaurin LT102  
**Workshops/Rehearsals:** Weekly DVD **Venue:** KK202 or MS209  
screenings on  
Fridays, Saturdays  
or Sundays – times  
tba  
**Tutorial times:** Mon 2.10-3pm or **Venue:** HU324  
3.10-4pm

### COURSE DELIVERY

This course will consist of two 1.5-hour lectures and one 1-hour tutorial per week. It will be structured around a range of learning activities, including small group work, and whole class discussions. The tutorials will normally involve the discussion of weekly topics, and assigned readings, as well as information relevant to assessed work.

Tutorials commence in the second week of the trimester. Groups will be posted on blackboard at the end of Week 1. Please check to confirm what group you are in.

DVD screenings commence in the first week, when you will be required to watch a film or films on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in preparation for the Friday class. From week 2 onwards group DVD screenings will occur between Friday and Sunday in preparation for your Monday journal entry and the classes the following week. Final screening times and venues will be posted on Blackboard at the end of week 1. You may also choose to watch the specified DVDs individually outside the booked screening times.

### PAPER PRESCRIPTION

An introduction to operatic repertoire, viewed in its social, historical and/or cultural contexts.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Students who successfully complete this paper should be able to demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the generic conventions of opera
2. An appreciation of the ways in which opera interacts with social and cultural contexts
3. A familiarity with the rudiments of important critical approaches to opera
4. Knowledge of basic library resources pertinent to the course content and skill in writing academic essays on a topic in music.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

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A 20-point second trimester paper should require at least 200 hours work (including class time). This means that in term time, the midterm break and study week you should be prepared to spend on average 16 hours per week involved in activities such as attending classes, reading, listening to recommended recordings and preparing assignments.

## PAPER CONTENT

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*For many of the greatest composers opera has been their ultimate goal and the pinnacle of their achievement; but opera is often perceived as a very elite art form, requiring years of specialised training for its performers and high incomes and acquired tastes on the part of its audiences. In this introductory course, suitable for both performers and students with no previous experience in music, we examine the basis for such perceptions, while also moving beyond them to consider how opera remains such a moving medium for audiences around the world. In the class we will investigate how the basic terms of operatic communication - music and text, in collaboration with voice, body, staging - function in representative operas. We will also consider how the experience of opera is translated according to the medium - how the live experience of opera is reconfigured, via different filmic approaches, for audiences today.*

*See attached course syllabus for more information.*

## READINGS, MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

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Students must purchase the volume of student notes compiled for this course (MUSC 131 Introduction to Opera).

*For the first two weeks of trimester, all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8am–6pm, Monday–Friday during term time (closing at 5pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515*

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

<i>Assessment name</i>	<i>Word length / approx. duration</i>	<i>Learning outcome(s)</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>% of final grade</i>
Classwork in the form of a portfolio (Blackboard journal) of short written exercises	No more than 750 words each	1, 2, 3	Weekly by Monday midday	20%
Essay 1, based on one journal entry	1,500 words	1, 2, 3, 4	21 August, 5pm	15%
Research/bibliographic assignment		4	14 August, 5pm	10%
Essay 2, on one of two set topics (see Syllabus)	1,500 words	1, 2, 3, 4	5 October in tutorial; final version due 16 October, 5pm.	15%
Test	1-1.5 hours	1, 2, 3	8 September in class	10%
Final examination	3 hours	1, 2, 3	Tba, between 27 October–13 November 2009	30%

For more details relating to these assessments see the separate Syllabus.

### Deposit and collection of written work

*Assignments should be submitted via Blackboard. The initial version of Essay 2 must be brought to your tutorial on 5 October..*

*Marked assignments will be returned electronically or to the pigeon holes outside MS209.*

### Deadlines for written work:

Written work must be handed in by the due dates. In fairness to other students, unless a medical certificate is produced, work handed in after 5pm on the due date will be subject to a 5% demerit on your grade, increasing by 5% each further working day it is overdue.

Students, who for exceptional reasons can justify an extension for the essay, must apply to the Paper Co-ordinator before the due date. Please note that NO extensions can be granted for tutorial assignments.

## ASSIGNMENT PRESENTATION

**Written work** should be presented according to the guidelines set out in the **NZSM Guidelines for Academic Work**, which can be downloaded as a PDF document from the NZSM Website <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/study/programmes.aspx> (in the right-hand column). Five percent (5%) will be deducted for written work that does not conform to these standards.

**Notated works** must be presented according to the guidelines set down in the **NZSM Composition and Orchestration Style Guide**, available as a PDF document from the NZSM Website: <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/study/composition.aspx> (in the right-hand column). Five percent (5%) will be deducted for notated work that clearly does not conform to these standards.

**Sonic Arts works** should be submitted as a clearly labelled Audio CD, or, for multimedia works, as a DVD or as a Quicktime data file on a data CD-ROM.

## MANDATORY PAPER REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- Submit all the assessment specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).
- Attend at least 80% of lectures, tutorials and workshops related to this course.

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/INFORMATION ON CHANGES

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Official notices issued after the paper has commenced will be posted on the board outside the NZSM office on the Kelburn campus. Notices concerning a number of papers will also be posted on Blackboard. The Paper Co-ordinator will specify if Blackboard will be used.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

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Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning, are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. The NZSM's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The NZSM defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the NZSM website:  
<http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/about/statutes-policies.aspx#plagiarism>

## GENERAL NZSM POLICIES AND STATUTES

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Students should familiarise themselves with the NZSM's policies and statutes, especially those regarding Personal Courses of Study, Academic Grievances, Staff and Student Conduct. Please see <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/about/statutes-policies.aspx>

For any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied, see either the *Massey University Calendar* or the *Victoria University Calendar*.

Information about Student Services, including Academic Mentoring for Maori and Pacific Students, and support for Students with Disabilities, is to be found in the *NZSM Student Handbook* (available from the NZSM offices on each campus).

## EVENTS

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Regular events are held during trimesters 1 & 2 at all NZSM campuses. These events are for the benefit of all students, and include performances, masterclasses, special lectures and workshops given by staff, students and visiting artists.

All students are expected to obtain a copy of the current event brochure (published twice yearly) and keep time free to attend the weekly lunchtime concert on Friday at 12.00pm, along with other events as required.

**Event manager:** Debbie Rawnsley  
**Phone:** (04) 463 6050      **Email:** [debbie.rawnsley@nzsm.ac.nz](mailto:debbie.rawnsley@nzsm.ac.nz)  
**Website:** <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/events/>